



January 15, 2016

Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District
500 West Temple Street, Room 856
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via email to FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov and EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV

SUBJECT: Support for Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance

Dear Board Chair Solis:

I am writing to express my support for creating a county wide stewardship program for the safe and convenient disposal of unwanted medicines from households. Almost all of us have leftover or expired medicines in our homes, and many of us also have needles (medical sharps). We need a secure and safe way to dispose of these drugs and needles to protect our families and protect our environment.

I'm concerned about the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in my community, and how our home medicine cabinets have become the new drug dealers for our kids. Drug abuse is a complex problem, and a secure system for collecting leftover and expired medicines from households is an important part of the solution. I'm also concerned when needles from syringes aren't handled properly, putting our families and garbage/recycling workers at risk of dangerous needle sticks and infections.

Our company, Metropolitan Recycling, LLC. owns and operates the newest and largest Material Recovery Facility in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. We process most of the mixed blue cart material that is collected in Kern County and we also process material from L.A. County. We have a massive issue with sharps. Our facility comes to a complete shut-down when we see a needle. We have to outfit and train our dozens of co-workers to identify, extract and procedurally dispose of the thousands of sharps we process on a monthly basis to ensure their safety. But, still we have had needle sticks.

We appreciate the sheriff collection sites for medicines or for sharps in the county but they are not convenient, there are not enough of them and they're not easy enough to find and I don't want our law enforcement burdened with managing a health care industry product – the hospitals, doctors, pharmacies and drug companies should all share in the cost and

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January 18, 2016

Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District
500 West Temple Street, Room 856
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via email to FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov and EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV

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I'm concerned about the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in my community, and how our home medicine cabinets have become the new drug dealers for our kids. Drug abuse is a complex problem, and a secure system for collecting leftover and expired medicines from households is an important part of the solution. I'm also concerned when needles from syringes aren't handled properly, putting our families and garbage/recycling workers at risk of dangerous needle sticks and infections.

Our 5 member companies hold refuse and recycling collection contracts in predominantly Kern County. We are constantly working to decrease the amount of needles that end up in our material streams, but we are still left with thousands per month that are detected and removed at the facilities where we deliver our material.

We appreciate the sheriff collection sites for medicines or for sharps in the county but they are not convenient, there are not enough of them and they're not easy enough to find and I don't want our law enforcement burdened with managing a health care industry product – the hospitals, doctors, pharmacies and drug companies should all share in the cost and responsibility to ensure safe management of these products. We also need more public education to not flush or trash and instead use the collection system.

It's time to ensure that all communities in our county have safe and convenient take-back locations for pharmaceuticals and sharps. To me, it just makes sense to have the manufacturers of the medicines and sharps provide a stewardship program for their products, just like they already do in other countries like Canada and Mexico.

P.O. Box 2716 - Bakersfield, CA 93303



I support L.A. County ordinance and I ask the Board of Supervisors to pass it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacob Panero", is written over a horizontal line.

Jacob Panero
Kern Refuse Disposal, Inc.